

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the Examiner's rejection of the above-identified application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks. Claims 1 and 3-21 are in the application. Claims 1, 3 and 4 have been amended. No new matter has been added.

The Examiner rejected claims 3 and 4 as not further limiting claim 1. Applicant has amended claims 3 and 4 to clarify that it is the structure of the invention that allows the claimed operation.

The Examiner rejected claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §112. Applicant has amended claim 1 to more clearly recite the invention.

The Examiner rejected claims 3, 1-12, 16, 20 and 21 under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over *Hettinga* in view of *Putzler*. Applicant respectfully traverses. *Hettinga* not only shows a machine working horizontally, but also discloses a completely different technology.

As shown in Figs. 1 and 2 of *Hettinga*, a pressure piece 44 is required for respective adjustment of the die height. Depending on the mold height, this pressure piece 44 is longer or shorter. To apply the closing pressure, a cylinder (58) is indeed run-in sideways. But this cylinder effects just a short stroke which acts through the pressure piece 44 on the die.

In contrast, the present invention enables an ergonomically beneficial arrangement of the handling height of vertically operating machines, without the need for excavations or similar workings beneath the machine bed.

But this would be the case if one would put the machine according to *Hettinga* in the vertical position. After the injection molding process and the backing out of the cylinder 58, the die would go apart whereby the pressure piece 44 would have to be sunk far down below the machine base plane.

The machine according to *Putzler* has a vertical configuration, but points in its technology in the same direction as *Hettinga*. Here as well, a pressure piece 20 is necessary to be able to adjust the machine to the respective die height.

In contrast, in the apparatus according to the invention no pressure piece is necessary, as the cylinder used, which can be run in and out sideways, adopts both functions, that is, by increasing the oil volume the die height is approached and by a further short stroke the closing force is applied.

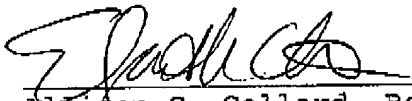
As arises from the attached drawing, the stroke volume and the pre tensioning volume form a unity.

Accordingly, Applicant submits that claims 1 and 3-21 are patentable over the prior art, taken either singly or in combination. Early allowance of the amended claims is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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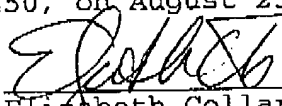
Enclosure: 1 drawing as an example


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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being sent by facsimile-transmission to the Commissioner of Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on August 25, 2004.


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